

wrote: “We are a family military. The very freedoms that we sometimes take for granted are what our sons and daughters fight for every day.” She continued: “When we lost our son, my perspective changed. The sacrifices these servicemembers and their families make every day are deserving of respect and honor. This monument allows us to pay tribute to the family members who lost loved ones. It is a place where we can come, feel peace, and hopefully recognize their sacrifice will never be forgotten.”

Gold Star Mother Bronwyn Mount, mother of the late Sgt. Bryan Cooper Mount, recently shared: “I am constantly surprised by the realization that so many people all over the country are remembering and honoring Cooper. To have so many people working towards this dedication, for the last 20 months, has been humbling to our family. To have multiple friends and families be willing to donate to the cost of the memorial has touched us deeply. We are so grateful to be able to visit the memorial and think of Cooper’s, and others’, sacrifices. We are grateful for a community that cares about the sacrifice.”

Mayor Michele Randall shared: “On August 6th, 2020, Sgt. Cooper Mount’s flag-draped casket arrived at the St. George airport. Moved by the emotion and patriotism of the procession from the airport to the mortuary, the City of St. George chose to be the second city in Utah to install a Gold Star Families Memorial Monument in the heart of the city at historic Town Square. Saturday, March 26th, 2022, will be the dedication of the memorial and the culmination of many hours of work and over \$100,000 dollars raised by our residents. I cannot wait for our community to see this breathtaking monument in remembrance of our Gold Star families.”

I am honored to have the opportunity to highlight the great work that so many people freely participated in to make this memorial, which recognizes and remembers the sacrifices of Utah’s Gold Star families, possible. These monuments are not the last of their kind in Utah or in the United States. More monuments are being discussed, planned, and constructed. The movement to honor Gold Star families across America has taken hold of many communities throughout the country.

Let us not allow this movement to rise in relevance for a moment and then fade. Let us recognize and remember, forever, the sacrifices of our Nation’s Gold Star families.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING OUR BEST RESTAURANT

• Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding

Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize the small business, Our Best Restaurant of Smithfield, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1990, the late Kenneth Way and his wife Kay embarked on a new adventure in the autumn of their lives. After retiring from a career in the retail industry, Kenneth bought an old wheat mill in Smithfield, KY, population 100. Joined by his wife Kay who had just retired from her career serving the Kentucky State government, the two opened Our Best Restaurant. Kenneth’s son Kenny Way will tell you himself that his father was not in the restaurant business; he was in the “people business.” Kenneth’s motto was that if you treat people well, your business will succeed no matter what you do. Clearly, Kenneth was on to something as his restaurant and legacy continue to thrive for the past 32 years.

Kenneth’s son Kenny Way now owns and operates the business, carrying on his father’s mission of providing top quality service to everyone who walks in the door. Though Our Best Restaurant consistently serves delicious country cooking, it is the warm and friendly atmosphere that keeps people coming back time and time again. With a population as small as Smithfield’s, the restaurant cannot depend on the typical walk-in customer that other Main Street businesses often see; their bread and butter are the locals—and even visitors, who keep coming back. A change in ownership never stopped their “regulars” from choosing Our Best Restaurant because Kenny learned from his late father that a loyal customer will only come back if you treat them right. That is why the staff of Our Best Restaurant put in such an effort to get to know their customers, to meet their families and their children, to ask them about their day, and to show that they care about the customer’s experience beyond just the meal.

Such high-quality customer service and food have allowed Our Best Restaurant to grow and expand. Since 1990, they have expanded their dining space and have branched out to offer catering services besides from their dine-in operations. The catering business became a crucial stream of revenue for the restaurant as the COVID-19 pandemic put a temporary end to in-person dining. Local energy and utility companies turned to Our Best Restaurant to safely serve meals to their employees during the height of the pandemic. Our Best Restaurant has consistently proved to be a steadfast member of the small community of Smithfield. The restaurant maintains great relationships with the local high school, looking out for the local students and always feeding them a hearty meal of Kentucky country cooking.

The reputation of the feel-good-food and friendly atmosphere of Our Best Restaurant has allowed them to be a

destination in themselves. They often have folks drive in from Jefferson County and Franklin County to enjoy their famous cooking. And of course, any and all visitors receive the same smalltown welcome as any Smithfield local would. Our Best Restaurant is the entrepreneurial embodiment of the late Kenneth and Kay’s dream come true and a wonderful example of a father’s mission carried on by his son. All across the country are little towns like Smithfield, areas that contain little more than a post office and a church, and it is businesses like Our Best Restaurant that keep those small communities thriving. Congratulations to Kenny, his son Aric, and the entire Our Best Restaurant team. I wish them the best of luck and look forward to watching their continued growth and success in Kentucky.●

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4373. An act making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 6968. An act to prohibit the importation of energy products of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7108. An act to suspend normal trade relations treatment for the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3580. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, with respect to prohibited acts by ocean common carriers or marine terminal operators, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. REED for the Committee on Armed Services.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (1h) Paul J. Schlise, to be Rear Admiral.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Maria B. Barrett, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Tickner, to be Major General.

Army nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Tina B. Boyd and ending with Col. Todd W. Traver, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2022. (minus 1 nominee: Col. Paul J. McCarthy)

Navy nomination of Capt. Jeffrey J. Kilian, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).